



# DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

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## COUNCIL ENDORSES FUND EXPANSION

GREENWICH, Conn. -- The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church has endorsed two proposals designed to strengthen the Church's refugee ministries and broaden the scope of its primary relief and development work.

The first establishes a three-part program of support, education and placement in refugee ministries and is based on anticipated revenues from U.S. government refugee funds. The program calls for hiring additional officers to handle the mass of work involved in placement and other staff to create a nationwide network to coordinate and supply services to Episcopal agencies engaged in refugee work. The program would be administered through the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief and, it is expected, will be funded entirely from federal monies.

A key to the proposal is the development of three regional offices which, operating under a central officer, will provide the education, recruitment and services that are available locally, but often go untapped. Each region or agency is expected to be able to develop plans that best suit those local conditions.

The other proposal calls for hiring a network officer for the Presiding Bishop's Fund to work throughout the Church to increase support for the Fund. The goal is that each diocese would eventually have designated people to do local education work and help congregations understand that wide range of the Fund's ministry.

Although funding was made available through the Fund's own income, the Council asked that a Volunteer for Mission be sought to do the work which is expected to last from one to three years.

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Both resolutions were presented to Council on Thursday. But action was postponed a day when Council members asked that the Council's Finance/Administration Committee review the proposals, especially with regard to hiring practices and funding that fall outside the normal Council structures.

On Friday, the Finance/Administration Committee recommended that the proposals be rewritten to eliminate reference to outside contracts and the reports were passed on that basis.

In other action, the Council approved an amendment to the Fund's charter providing for 20 board members instead of the current 16 and passed a resolution of commendation to the ad hoc refugee committee chaired by the Rev. Canon Oliver B. Garver, Jr., of Los Angeles, which had developed the refugee proposals.

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Both resolutions were presented to Council on Thursday. But before the vote  
was taken, when Council members asked that the Council's Executive Committee  
be authorized to review the proposals, especially with regard to budgetary matters and  
the fact that outside the national Council members.  
The 7th day, the Finance/Administration Committee recommended that the  
Council be authorized to eliminate reference to outside consultants and the report was  
passed on that basis.  
In other action, the Council approved an amendment to the 1967 charter  
which for 20 years in effect, instead of the current 10 and passed a resolution of  
commitment to the 40 per cent reduction of the 1967. (The 1967  
charter, 12, of the 1967, which had not been adopted).

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